CHATEAU MONTELENA
ESTABLISHED 1882

2014 Montelena Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Notes from the Winemaker, Matt Crafton, July 2017

INTRODUCTION

It's always an incredibly special moment when we finish the final blend of our Estate Cabernet Sauvignon; when we've hit that perfect spot where the flavors, aromas, and textures reach the pinnacle of balance and expression. Our forty year legacy of recognizing the far-reaching consequences of how we farm, craft the wine, and blend, along with the ethos to agonize over every fundamental detail is what sets Chateau Montelena apart.

VINTAGE WEATHER

Budbreak did not arrive abnormally early despite the relatively warm winter and widespread concern over low rainfall. Mild weather, coupled with plenty of cool nights extended the growing season. In general, harvest was steady with no major rain events. Conditions were ideal.

NOSE

The interplay of cassis, vanilla, and black cherry are quite complimentary but also dynamic; shifting to fresh blueberry with a hint of tobacco. These, in turn, are buttressed by dark chocolate, mocha, and a slight suggestion of sweet oak.

PALATE

Silky, fine-grain tannins vie with vibrant acidity that slowly expose the rich, ripe raspberry and blackberry notes that dominate the mid palate. While the fruit is lush and mouthcoating, some patience will unveil the subtle layers of anise, smoke, and earth hidden beneath.

FINISH

The finish extends the density and structure as cloves and cinnamon combine with nuances of briar and flint yielding an extraordinarily food-friendly wine.

Technical Information

HARVEST DATES
September 1–
October 6, 2014

ALCOHOL
14.1%

BLEND
97% Cabernet Sauvignon
2% Cabernet Franc
1% Petit Verdot

BARREL AGING
22 Months, 100% French,
35% New

RELEASE DATE
January 2018

WINEMAKER
Matt Crafton

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